



*“Together we are walking with our Lord and celebrating the spirit of St. Francis on a journey of worship, service, fellowship and peace”*

November 2019

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**St. Francis of Assisi  
Anglican Church**  
Meadowvale

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# The Franciscan

## Let There Be Peace on Earth ...

Jen Jones

About 10 years ago, St. Francis was instrumental in creating a Peace Garden with the MWCC members. There have been several ceremonies around the garden, but it was badly in need of repair. We started in the late spring by pulling out the peace pole and digging and weeding the garden. Canadian Tire donated geraniums to plant and the Sunday School children watered the plants regularly. The pole has been repainted with the message of peace and was put back in the garden (and a level was used on all sides!) In October, the children and their families planted lots of bulbs. It will be lovely to see them all in bloom in the spring as long as the squirrels haven't stolen them away! We will rededicate the Peace Garden in the spring. This has been a labour of love for all involved and a wonderful learning and growing experience for the children of the parish.



## Weekly Programs

**Sundays**

8:30am Said Eucharist

10am Holy Eucharist with Sunday School, & Choir

**Mondays**

11am-12 Line Dancing with Sunny ~ \$5

**Wednesdays**

10am Communion and Prayers

10-11:30 Yoga with Margaret ~ \$5

**Thursdays**

7:30-9pm Choir Practice

**... and let it begin with me**



## Arise, Shine for your Light has Come!

Father Jeff



This year neighbourhoods across North America will joyfully compete with each other to see who can create the most impressive Christmas light show on their property. It is said that some neighbourhood lights can be seen from the space station and most recently a NASA satellite has been tracking these light shows over the planet to gauge increased power usage over special times of the year like Christmas and Ramadan. There will be houses right here in Mississauga that will go all out to impress their neighbours. I know that I have my favourite streets and houses to drive by over the Christmas season and now that I have grandchildren, I too spend a little more effort to create a festive atmosphere at home.

It gets me to thinking about the themes of Light and Darkness. I muse over the Light. How have I been touched by the Light, transformed by the Light? Who in my life has acted as a beacon in the times when the darkness overwhelms me? Who has been my Guiding Light in moments when I have needed sage advice? I think back on times when my mentors were my friends and the discussion was the guiding light as my thoughts found expression in the words of articulated belief. My life began to form around credal statements and moral characteristics of Godly love and compassion, forgiveness, truth, peace and the simple joy of the Lord. My choices were my convictions. My mother and father certainly played a strong part of my formation as well by their lives example and constant opportunity and exposure to life giving experience in the communities to which we belonged. I think of other key people in my life who were like lights shining as a point of reference or as a star to reach for and a nearby goal to achieve.

Of course, the greatest beacon to exist in our Christian Faith that points the way to something new, fresh and life giving is known to me as the Star of Bethlehem. The star from the east that guides the wise to the place of birth of a new era, a new beginning, a new hope and a new covenant, guides us also to the place of birth of Jesus who we call the Christ.

The Light of Christ will guide us throughout our lives as we celebrate our success, our victories, our joys, our hopes and our dreams. The Light of Jesus, our Saviour, Redeemer and Friend is the Light that guides us through the difficult moments and decisions of our lives and is present as a comfort in the darkest times of our lives and sees us through to the other side. The night is always darkest before the dawn, and then the Glory of the Lord will shine upon us! This is the Anticipation of Advent and the Blessing of Christmas!

The Holy Angel Gabriel proclaims "For unto you is born this day, a Saviour who is Christ, the Lord" May we continue to be blessed by this Light, guided by this Light and surrounded by this Light of Jesus today and always.

I wish you all a thoughtful Advent and a Merry Christmas!

*Father Jeff*



*Father Jeff & Yvette invite you to a Parish Open House  
at the rectory (3031 St Malo Crescent)  
on Saturday December 7. Come any time between 2 ~ 6 pm*



## Paving our Way to the Future



Driving across our amazing, newly paved parking lot today, it is hard to remember what a desperate, potholed, unfriendly surface it used to be. We give thanks to everyone who has contributed financially over the past years to make our new lot a reality. Hope you are all enjoying it!!

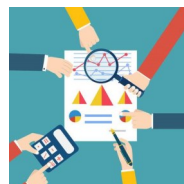
## Finance Update

Thank you all for your faithful stewardship and continued financial support of our Parish.

Our offering through the collection plate alone is \$700 more per month than it was last year. Our long term debt for the Rectory Mortgage and the debt for the building of the church have both been forgiven by the Diocese.

We have successfully fundraised and paid for our share of the new parking lot. (see left)

There will always be new expenses and another fundraiser coming up, but we sincerely thank you for your support, prayers and enthusiasm.



It is so wonderful to be a part of a Parish Family that continues to support each other in prayer, in deed and financially.

## ACW NEWS

**Roxana Simmons**

The ACW met in October for what is becoming an annual event: Murder Mystery Night. It was an evening of laughter, fun and good-natured accusations. The actors were totally into their character parts. Costumes were outstanding. Those without parts were involved too, guessing Who Done It!

The next ACW night is Nov 25. It is Xmas craft and elections night. The present executive will stand for 2020, but if anyone would like to put their name forward for a position, an election would happen that evening. Please see Diane or Roxana.

The Xmas craft is an easy one, no skills required. There will be a sign up sheet posted on the church bulletin board. There will be a \$3 charge. Making the craft is not required. All are welcome to come and enjoy an evening of fellowship. We will meet at June Bennett's home at 7:30.

Let us help you with your holiday baking. The ACW will be organizing a Christmas bake sale on Dec 15 at coffee hour after the Sunday School Pageant.

The annual Christmas pot luck meeting is on Dec 16 at Vanna Boghossian's home. Put this date on your calendar. Don't miss this festive gathering.

Hoping to see all our church sisters at the upcoming meetings.





## St. Francis Day Animal Blessing

As St. Francis is the patron Saint of Animals, a Blessing of the Animals service has become a mainstay of our St. Francis Day celebrations.. In the past, our priests have blessed cats, dogs, birds, snakes and hamsters, but this year our honoured guests were strictly canine.

We welcomed six families and 8 dogs to the lawn near the newly raised peace pole.

We had two non-parish families from the surrounding community that were return guests (from last year) and we received messages from two others (one who said they couldn't make it and another who let us know they got the time mixed up and just missed getting there.

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God loves them all!



### Save the Date

**OUR AREA BISHOP  
THE RIGHT REVEREND  
JENNY ANDISON WILL BE**

**CELEBRATING WITH US AT**

**ST. FRANCIS ON**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 5, 2020**

**PLAN TO BE HERE TO WORSHIP  
WITH BISHOP JENNY**



### Congratulations to MIC

The Meadowvale Islamic Centre had their ground breaking ceremony on Sunday November 3. The MIC is currently a full time renter of space from St. Francis – using our space for worship.. They will continue to rent from us over the next two years until their construction in the neighbourhood is complete. Our arrangement has been a double blessing. We have helped them in their hour of need and fostered a new friendship in the community. They have helped us financially when we were not as stable as we are today. Father Jeff joined them at the new site for the excitement of the official ground breaking.





## Christmas Pageant

We have 26 children on our Sunday School list this year and that is amazing! It is so wonderful to see the number of young people at our church grow.

One of our ongoing goals is to ensure our youth know that they are an equal and important part of our church and have talents to offer. We put this into action earlier by working on the Peace garden. And now we will do that again while preparing for the Christmas Pageant.

Once again this year, we are writing the pageant together. Each Sunday the children are asked to tell us something about the Christmas story. This year, we are adding in some comments from adults as well.

This year's pageant will take place on Sunday December 15 at the 10:00 am service. Rehearsals will be on Saturday December 7 and Saturday December 14 from 10:00 am to noon. If you have a child who wants to participate,

please speak to a Sunday School teacher and save the rehearsal dates.

Please join us in church on December 15 to support and celebrate our kids and their contribution to the life of the parish.



**Christmas Pageant**

## Christmas Outreach

St. Francis has a long history of Christmas Outreach. In recent years, the ACW has taken on the role of coordinating the efforts of the parish to help those in need over Christmas. We help by providing much needed gifts for family members and gift cards for groceries, drug store items and other essentials.

This year we are supporting 3 families at Armagh House. Armagh House is a transitional facility for women and their children who have left abusive relationships. We are also supporting 1 family in our church community.

Details of the families and their needs will be posted in the church starting November 17. Sign up and drop off your outreach donation at the church over the next three Sundays Nov 24, Dec 1, and Dec 8. Please bring new, unwrapped donations only. We will be delivering to Armagh the week of Dec 8.

Thank you all for supporting this Outreach every year.



Messy Church is a way of being church for children, young people and adults, and in particular, those who perhaps have never attended a church service before. It is shaped by key values of hospitality, creativity, celebration, being for all ages, and centred on Christ. Most Messy Churches last about 2 hours, with the first hour taken up with activities on the Bible theme that are designed to appeal to a range of learning and spiritual styles. Then there is a short celebration that includes the Bible story, song and prayer. Messy Church ends with a meal together.

Our theme for Sunday November 30 is Journey to Christmas. We will meet at the church at 9:30am for an all ages hands on worship of crafts, stories, prayer, music and food. The families will be encouraged to show us their Journey to Christmas through social media in the weeks following the Messy Church. Please speak to Lori Johnson if you did not receive an invitation and would like to attend!

### Narrative Budget November 24

It is important that all members of the church are aware of our financial health and wellbeing. How much income do we have? Where does the money go? We will provide an easy, narrative approach to understanding the budget for all at services on November 24.



### Christmas Eve December 24



There will be two services on Christmas Eve. The family service will begin at 5:30 pm and the candlelight service at 11:00 pm (with incense). Both services celebrate the coming of the baby Jesus in word, music, prayer and Eucharist.

### Christmas Day December 25

Please join us on Christmas Morning at 10 am for our Christmas Day Service. It will be a Said Eucharist. Giving praise and thanks together is a joyful way to start your Christmas Day. Join us!



### Lessons & Carols December 29

Every year we join together with our friends at White Oak Presbyterian to celebrate a service of Lessons and Carols. This is a chance to hear the Christmas story through scripture and to sing favourite Christmas Hymns. This year we are at St. Francis at 10 am






## Carols by Candlelight

St Andrew’s Church in Streetsville is preparing for their annual Carols by Candlelight evening which includes special music interspersed with carol singalongs. They are once again opening up the event to include choirs from surrounding churches and St. Francis is going to participate. Last year’s program was a huge hit with the audience and showcased each choir and group performance.

Parishioners from St. Francis attended last year and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. See June Bennett if you want to hear more ~ and then mark the date on your calendar ~ Friday December 13 at 7:30 pm





There are always opportunities for you to share you Time and Talents at St. Francis. Our family of volunteers is what keeps our church running smoothly and helps make worship meaningful.

Currently we are looking for anyone interested in helping out in Sunday School - it could be a regular commitment or on an “as needs” basis. If this is something you are interested in speak to Father Jeff or Jen Jones to get clarity and details.

## Welcome Breakfast



On Saturday November 9, Father Jeff enlisted some helpers to host Breakfast for some of our newest parish families. Stan Shim made his world famous eggs and bacon and there was also delicious toast, homemade muffins and cinnamon buns along with cereal on the menu.

Families had the chance to introduce themselves and we learned that some joined us from as far away as Africa and Dubai, some made their way to us via other Canadian cities like Calgary and some were already Mississauga locals before finding us at St. Francis.

It was a time to chat and mingle and for kids to play. Some long time parishioners shared their stories talked about communication tools and services available.

## THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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*“Make me a channel of your peace.”*

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:**

**WWW.STFRANCISAOFM.ORG**

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**  
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ANGLICAN  
CHURCH, MISSISSAUGA



## Mark Your Calendar!



November 24	Narrative Budget	8:30 and 10:00 am
November 30	Messy Church	9:30 am ~ noon
December 7	Parish Open House at the rectory	2:00 pm ~ 6:00 pm
December 8	Outreach Gifts due date	Bring donations to Church by Dec 8
December 15	Sunday School Pageant ACW Bake Sale	10:00 am Following
December 17	Advisory Board	6 pm at Rectory
December 24	Christmas Eve Family Service Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (with incense)	5:30 pm 11:00 pm
December 25	Christmas Day Service	10:00 am
December 29	Lessons and Carols (in St. Francis)	10:00 am